

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01570 252000Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-01 NIC-01 SY-04 OC-05

SCA-01 IO-10 CCO-00 /078 W
----- 040784

O R 251745Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7627

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: OBSERVATIONS ON FEBRUARY 24 MILITARY CONSPIRACY

REF: ATHENS 1541

1. SUMMARY: GREEK GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT FEBRUARY 24 OF
PLOTING BY "JUNTA" ARMY OFFICERS MOST OF WHOM ARE STILL
IN ACTIVE SERVICE AND THEIR ARRESTS OCCURRED EXACTLY SEVEN MONTHS
AFTER NATION RETURNED TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. SUCH PLOTING
SHOULD BE SEEN AGAINST BACKGROUND OF THE CONTINUED
UNSETTLED STATE OF GREEK ARMED FORCES, PRIMARILY THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 01570 252000Z

ARMY, AN OUTGROWTH OF THE RAPID TURNOVER OF

RANKING OFFICERS IN PAST 18 MONTHS
AND ANXIETY FELT BY MANY ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS OVER THE
EXTENT TO WHICH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT MAY PURSUE DEJUNTIZATION
WITHIN THE MILITARY. MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS ARE CREDITING
CARAMANLIS' GOVERNMENT FOR DECISIVE HANDLING OF THIS MINI-
UPRISING. NONETHELESS THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND OTHER
ADVOCATES OF RAPID AND COMPLETE DEJUNTIZATION WILL PROBABLY
TAKE A "WE TOLD YOU SO" POSTURE AND INTENSIFY THEIR CAMPAIGN.
END SUMMARY.

2. CARMANLIS MARKED HIS SEVENTH MONTH IN OFFICE BY
ANNOUNCING THAT A PLOT ENGINEERED BY A GROUP OF UNREPENTANT
ARMY OFFICERS LINKED TO THE JUNTA HAD BEEN UNCOVERED AND
APPROPRIATE MEASURES WERE TAKEN (REFTEL). AS GLEANED FROM
INITIAL PRESS COVERAGE IT APPEARS TOP CIVILIAN AND MILITARY
PERSONNEL MET IN EMERGENCY SESSION AT THE GREEK PENTAGON AT
NOON FEBRUARY 24 AND AFTER CONFIRMING REPORTS OF CONSPIRATORIAL
ACTIVITY CALLED A MILITARY ALERT, MADE NECESSARY ARRESTS AND
THEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THAT SITUATION WAS UNDER FULL
CONTROL AND THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. BY ALL ACCOUNTS
GOG MOVED SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WHICH MOST POLITICAL
OBSERVERS VIEW AS INDICATIVE OF CARAMANLIS' STEADY HAND.
VARIOUS REPORTS AND RUMORS OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT HAVE CIRCULATED IN RECENT WEEKS AND THE GOG
WAS PROBABLY ALERTED WELL IN ADVANCE AND THUS PREPARED TO
TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION. AT THE SAME TIME, POLITICAL
OPPOSITION LEADERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS
THE GOG BY COMPLAINING THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SLACK IN ITS
DEJUNTIZATION EFFORTS.

3. MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF FEBRUARY 24 ATTEMPT WILL BE
ITS IMPACT ON THE MORALE OF THE GREEK ARMED FORCES. THOSE
ALREADY DISCONTENTED OFFICERS, MANY WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL IF
NOT ACTUAL LINKS TO THE JUNTA, MAY FIND THEMSELVES FURTHER
ISOLATED AND POLARIZED FROM THEIR FELLOW OFFICERS AND
NATIONAL OPINION. OTHERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO URGE A SWIFT
CONCLUSION TO THE LEGAL PROSECUTION OF APRIL 21 OFFICERS
AND THE PURGING OF ELEMENTS WHO REMAIN UNSYMPATHETIC TO
THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES. THE UNSETTLED
STATE OF THE NATION'S ARMED FORCES CANNOT BE CURED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 01570 252000Z

OVERNIGHT BUT ITS LEADERSHIP INCLUDING THE KEY CIVILIAN
OFFICIALS MAY LOOK TO WAYS TO INTENSIFY THEIR THERAPEUTIC
EFFORTS--SUCH AS MINDEF AVEROFF-S PEP TALKS. WHILE YESTERDAY'S
OCCURRENCES MIGHT DROP FAIRLY RAPIDLY FROM PUBLIC VIEW AS
JUST ANOTHER MISGUIDED EVENT, THE UNDELYING MALAISE OF
THE ARMY WHICH CAN EXPRESS ITSELF IN SUCH PLOTTING WILL
CONTINUE AS A TOP PRIORITY GOG CONCERN. IT COULD ALSO
PRESENT PM WITH OPPORTUNITY TO USE CONSPIRATORS OF

FEBRUARY 24 AS FINAL TARGETS OF DEJUNTIZATION AND AT SAME TIME TO PRAISE BALANCE OF OFFICER CORPS FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATED LOYALTY AT THIS CRITICAL TESTING TIME.

4. COMMENT: AVEOFF APPEARED AT KUWAIT NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION LOOKING UNPERTURBED AND BASKING IN THE GLOW OF ATTENTION. HE TOLD DCM AND OTHERS THAT (A) SITUATION WAS UNDER CONTROL (B) GOVERNMENT HAD MOVED BEFORE PLOTTERS COULD ACTIVATE THEIR PLAN; (C) ONLY A "SMALL" GROUP OF YOUNG OFFICERS HAS BEEN INVOLVED AND (D) GOVERNMENT LATER TODAY WOULD ANNOUNCE NAMES OF 37 WHO WERE DIRECTLY IMPLICATED AND HAD HAD BEEN ARRESTED. AVEOFF OBSERVED THAT HE WAS REASSURED BY FAILURE OF MALCONTENTS TO RALLY GENERAL SUPPORT AMONG GREEK MILITARY AND WAS DETERMINED TO RESIST OPPOSITION EFFORTS TO FORCE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT GENERAL PURGE.
KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, MILITARY PERSONNEL, JUNTA, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS01570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750066-0474
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750216/aaaaaogf.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 1541
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OBSERVATIONS ON FEBRUARY 24 MILITARY CONSPIRACY
TAGS: PINS, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006